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HASC Bfg 19 Jun 87

OCA 87-3572  
19 June 1987

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Follow up briefing on the Persian Gulf Threat  
issue for the House Armed Services Committee

1. Following the initial 17 June 1987, briefing on the Persian Gulf Threat for the House Armed Services Committee, a follow-up session for the Defense Panel Subcommittee was requested. The briefing took place in 2118 RHOB at 0900 on 19 June 1987. The major emphasis focused on the differences in our assessment with the DoD "White Paper". The following Members and staff were present:

MEMBERS

Chairman Les Aspin (D., WI)  
Rep Bill Nichols (D., AL)  
Rep Charles Bennett (D., FL)  
Rep Samuel Stratton (D., NY)  
Rep Beverly Byron (D., MD)  
Rep Norman Sisisky (D., VA)  
Rep John Spratt (D., SC)  
Rep George Darden (D., GA)  
Rep William Dickinson (R., AL)  
Rep Herbert Bateman (R., VA)

STAFF

Tony Battista  
Arch Barrett  
Larry Cavaiola  
Steve Conver  
Rudy DeLeon  
Robert Emmerichs  
Bill Fleshman  
Warren Nelson

2. The witness list for this briefing included Members from Department of Defense, State Department, Defense Intelligence Agency and the Agency (attached).

3. Subsequent to the initial session, Mr. Aspin issued a press release claiming that the Committee had learned of vast differences within the Administration on the Persian Gulf threat and cited the Agency briefing as undercutting the DoD views on the situation. Although the differences seemed to be a minor issue during our initial session, the Committee was not satisfied and wanted more amplification.

4. The differences turned out to be more semantics than major disagreements. The Agency's position was based on a period of six months to a year, while the "White Paper" covered only a two-month time frame. The "White Paper" did not address such issues as the retaliation threat to US and Western interests from terrorists for reflagging.

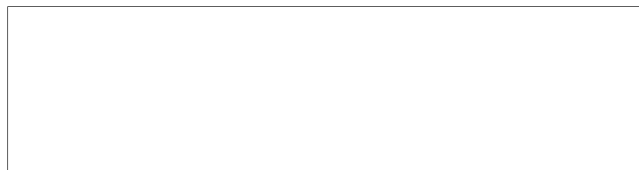
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Our evaluation was based on a comprehensive look at an actual threat being initiated. The "White Paper" had based its conclusions on a net threat situation in which an aggression would not be successful because of applied countermeasures. The fact that the Intelligence Community was in fact talking to each other seemed to ease most Members' concerns.

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DEFENSE POLICY PANEL AND INVESTIGATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
OF THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WITNESS LIST FOR CLOSED JOINT BRIEFING

June 19, 1987

**Department of Defense**

Commander Skip Minor  
Country Desk Officer, Persian Gulf  
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense,  
International Security Affairs

Vice Admiral Powell Carter, Jr.  
Director of the Joint Staff  
Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

**State Department**

Richard A. Clarke  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Regional Analysis

**Defense Intelligence Agency**

Lt. Gen. Leonard H. Perroots  
Director  
Defense Intelligence Agency

Defense Intelligence Officer  
for Middle East and South Asia

**Central Intelligence Agency**

Daniel Webster  
National Intelligence Officer  
for Near East and South Asia

Director of Near East and South Asia Office

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17 June 1987

OCA 87-2432

NOTE FOR: D/OCA

VIA: FROM: SUBJECT: Request for Persian Gulf Hearing on Differences  
in Assessment between the Agency and DoD

1. On 17 June 1987, the House Armed Services Committee received a briefing on the Persian Gulf situation with major emphasis on Iraq/Iran relations and the Silkworm missile.  opened with a short perspective on the problem emphasizing the fact that no one has all the information, and that based on the limited facts, a disagreement existed on the degree of threat. He concluded with the statement that we will give the Committee the facts and our assessment of the data.  summarized the war status, and the floor was opened for questions. Twenty-eight Members devoted the next two hours to questions.

2. The committee has requested a follow-up briefing for the Defense Policy Panel Subcommittee on Friday, 19 June at 0900. They are asking for a closed session to include the NIO (Dan Webster) and  from the Agency, the Defense Intelligence Officer (DIO) for the Mid East, and State (INR). The Committee has thrown us a curve, however, by asking that the DoD author of the white paper appear as well.

3. The major emphasis or issue would focus on differences in our assessment. Although this seemed to be a minor issue during our question and answer session and  highlighted that this was a CIA assessment throughout his remarks, the Committee wants more amplification.

4. Based on the short leadtime, I will continue to make arrangements for the briefing on the assumption that it will receive an approval. Nonetheless, this falls into the category of a current political issue, it involves us in a face to face dispute with a policy agency, and it appears to require a ruling from the DCI or DDCI.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

DISAPPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

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